

Applicant: P. Bonutti  
Application No.: 09/988,954  
Examiner: P. Prebilic

### Amendments to the Specification

#### In the Abstract

Please cancel the abstract and replace with the following:

C 1  
A method of stabilizing tissue. An implant is positioned in a patient's body such that the implant creates a space between a body tissue and at least one other object. The implant is expanded while the implant is disposed in the patient's body such that the space between the body tissue and at least one other object is at least maintained.